# General Cleaning and Disinfection of MASS™ Products

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## Introduction

Proper cleaning and infection control procedures are a key part of keeping your MASS™ Medical Storage products in top condition. Because of the sensitive nature of the medical items that are stored in our products, we have formulated recommendations based on the most current research available in order to assist you in establishing an appropriate infection control policy for your MASS™ Medical Storage products.

MASS™ Medical Storage products should be cleaned and disinfected on a regular schedule, even when the cabinets or carts have not been used. Even unused product surfaces, inside and out, can be contaminated with airborne pathogens, droplets, and organic soil such as blood or other body fluids. This lack of cleanliness may not be visible to the naked eye, indicating a need for close monitoring to ensure complete infection control.

An important distinction must be made between cleaning and disinfecting. Cleaning consists of the physical removal of dust, blood, body fluids, and dirt. While cleaning does remove some germs, it is not nearly effective enough to provide sanitary conditions for your patients. Disinfecting kills germs and is therefore far more thorough than cleaning. Rinsing between steps is also a necessary component, since any residual soap or dirt could reduce the power of the disinfectant.

Improper cleaning or disinfection of MASS™ Medical Storage products will void the warranty. Should you have any questions not answered here, please do not hesitate to contact MASS™ Medical Storage at 800-593-1000.

## Cleaning Instructions

Cabinet and cart surfaces should always be cleaned before disinfection. Any residual dirt or grime can compromise the effectiveness of the disinfectant by covering germs, protecting them from the disinfectant and extending their life and potential for infecting patients. For all MASS™ Medical Storage products, dust before cleaning and then remove any remaining deposits with a damp sponge before using the cleaning products and water.

**For melamine:**

MASS™ Medical Storage recommends using a non-abrasive, neutral liquid detergent at a 10-20% solution to clean your medical storage products. Avoid harsh cleaners such as bleach or ammonia, as this could cause permanent damage to the melamine surface. A stronger concentration of detergent should be used when excessive dirt is present.

Use a soft cloth or sponge to apply the liquid, and remember to lightly rinse before beginning the disinfecting process. Do not allow water to drip into the crevices of the cabinets or carts, as this can damage the product and might allow for bacterial growth.

**For powder coated metal:**

Use a mild household detergent solution applied with a soft cloth or sponge, and then rinse with warm water. Using filtered water is widely recommended, but not required. Again, take care to not allow excess water to seep into the products' crevices.

Avoid chlorine and other harsh cleaning solutions, as they will damage the powder coat finish. Also avoid using petroleum-based chemicals or solvents, since their mode of action is to remove the micro layers on the surface and this

will cause the cabinets and carts to break down over time and will likely result in cracks.

**For stainless steel:**

Avoid using any form of chlorine/bleach, as chlorine will cause irreversible damage by oxidizing and staining your products. Use a non-abrasive, neutral liquid detergent applied with a soft cloth or sponge. Always rinse thoroughly and dry with a soft cloth.

Do not use abrasive cleaning materials such as steel wool, powder products, or synthetic abrasives. Should it be necessary to scrub your stainless steel carts or cabinet surfaces, be sure to wipe parallel to the direction of the glazing, using as little pressure as possible.

## Disinfectant Recommendations

The disinfectant most suitable for regular use with MASS™ Medical Storage products is a quaternary ammonium compound. This low-level disinfectant comes highly recommended for general housekeeping of medical storage products and other non-critical items. It is bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal against lipophilic (enveloped) viruses. At hospital-strength concentration, quaternary ammonium compounds can destroy HIV, hepatitis B and C, influenza, parvovirus, and more.

Quaternary ammonium compounds are available in pre-mixed liquid form, concentrated form, and in pre-soaked disinfecting wipes. No matter which method you choose, the most important thing is to read the label of the disinfectant and adhere to the recommended contact time. If the area is not wet for the correct length of time, the disinfectant will not have time to work. Because of this, if you do choose to use disinfecting wipes, make sure to use enough wipes to fully wet the area for the entire length of contact time required for the disinfectant to work.

As with cleaning, **bleach is not recommended** for disinfecting your medical storage cabinets or carts, as bleach may cause irreparable damage to your products. Surfaces exposed to bleach will stain and oxidize, resulting in holes and cracks in the finish.

## Scope Cabinets

MASS™ scope cabinets' surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected as recommended above. However, the components of the scope cabinets are manufactured from different materials, so they warrant specific instructions for care.

Establishing an infection control policy is a vital part of maintaining proper compliance with The Joint Commission's scope storage standards. They recommend taking many factors into account when determining the routine infection control schedule:

- Frequency of opening cabinet doors;
- Presence of visible debris;
- Any wet stains, marks, or droplets;
- Volume and turnover of the cabinet's contents.

http://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/6/A_Joint_CommissionFDA_Webinar_on_Reprocessing_of_Scopes_Transcript.pdf

- MASS™ Medical Storage recommends using quaternary ammonium compounds for disinfecting the components of your scope cabinet. While not suitable for cleaning the surface of your cabinets, bleach can be used on the components if so desired.
- Drip trays can be processed in or out of the cabinet, although we do recommend removing the tray in order to reach every surface. Take care to dry *completely* before replacing.

- The scope holders (including Secure-A-Scope™) should regularly be cleaned with a mild, non-abrasive detergent and then disinfected with quaternary ammonium compounds or bleach.
- HEPA filters should be replaced every six months. MASS™ Medical Storage's service team is available for this routine maintenance. Call 800-593-1900 to schedule your appointment.
- Parts to remember:
    - Door handle
    - Nylon door pull (tall cabinets only)
    - EUS holder, including the adjustment knob
    - Fan activation switch (if present)

## Special Cases

It is always important to use all PPE while cleaning and disinfecting your medical storage products, but this becomes even more critical in the presence of any blood or bodily fluids. First, remove any hazardous liquid with a disposable, absorbent cloth and then place the used cloth in a hazardous waste container. Next, clean as you normally would, making sure to eliminate all visible contaminants.

Choose an appropriate disinfectant – an antimicrobial product that is registered with the EPA as effective against HIV or Hepatitis B, making sure to adhere to recommended contact time to allow the disinfectant to work fully. Check the disinfectant label and use the exact concentration recommended by the manufacturer for decontaminating biohazards.

## Conclusion

The life of your MASS™ Medical Storage cabinets and carts will be prolonged with proper use and care. Following these guidelines will help protect your patients from infection and help improve your overall infection control.

If you have any questions concerning installation, usage, or maintenance, please call MASS™ Medical Storage at 800-593-1900 or 913-438-8835, or visit our website at MASSMedicalStorage.com.